



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

April 18, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution List

FROM: John Magnotti, Task Leader  
Flood Hazard Mapping (FHM) Web Site

SUBJECT: Flood Hazard Mapping Web Site  
Monthly Activities Summary Report

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The contents of this memorandum were previously combined with monthly information about the FEMA Map Assistance Center. From this point forward, a separate memorandum will be prepared to summarize each of these activities. This memorandum highlights new content that has been posted to the Flood Hazard Mapping (FHM) web site in the last two months, site statistics, and other pertinent information.

## ***FHM Web Summary***

**New Content on the site:** The following new content has been placed on the site

- Updated Alluvial Fan Report: This report provides guidance for the identification and mapping of flood hazards occurring on alluvial fans, regardless of the level of fan forming activity, including active and inactive alluvial fan flooding. The report is provided in Adobe Acrobat PDF format and as a Microsoft Word WinZip archive at: [http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/DL\\_alfan.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/DL_alfan.htm).
- Overhauled and Updated Regulation and Guidance Page for Engineers and Surveyors: This page was updated to reference new information on the site (specifically, the Forms, Documents, and Software section). View the revised page at [http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/EN\\_reg.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/EN_reg.htm).
- Added Pages to Highlight Politically Sensitive Map Changes, Including Announcement for LA River Zone AR: In addition to obtaining status on map change activity underway via the Status Database, a new page has been added to reference detailed information on sensitive map changes. This section contains information prepared for press briefings, news releases, and other community outreach initiatives associated with specific map changes. Links are currently provided to data for the Village of Los Lunas, New Mexico and Los Angeles County, California. The new content may be viewed at [http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/ST\\_hot.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/ST_hot.htm).
- Added Technical Mapping Advisory Council 1999 Annual Report: The annual report of the Council is now available from the site in HTML, Microsoft Word WinZip, and Adobe Acrobat PDF formats. View the report at [http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/TMC\\_99r.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/TMC_99r.htm).

**Latest Site News:** The FHM web team has completed significant site revisions and research, and has offered assistance to other groups over the last two months. The most recent activities are listed below.

- **Redesigned Index Page:** The main page has been totally redesigned to include all key links for the site in a graphical layout. Image rollovers, scrolling banners and other techniques are used to make the page dynamic and inviting. Comments on the redesign are welcomed. The new index page may be viewed on the FHM mirror site at <http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/tsdindex.htm>. This page should be available from the FEMA FHM web site at <http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/tsdindex.htm> by April 25, 2000.
- **Map Modernization Overhaul:** The Map Modernization section of the flood hazard mapping site has been reformatted for easier navigation and visual attractiveness. Each active task has its own web page with links to supporting and related content. All 23 tasks can be accessed directly from the main Map Modernization page with one click. Map Modernization Task Managers will soon be able to submit new content for their tasks and request site updates via a new database on floodmaps.net. Two scrolling banners offer links to Work in Progress articles and "hot" topics such as downloadable Progress Reports and Map Modernization Power Point Presentations. Users may also sign-up for a listserv on this page. View the revised pages at [http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/MM\\_main.htm](http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/MM_main.htm). Look for the final version on the FHM site at [http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/MM\\_main.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/MM_main.htm) by April 25, 2000.
- **New content for Mapping Needs Assessment Program (MNAP):** Includes updated charts summarizing needs, e-mail links to key MNAP contacts, links to the MNAP regulatory mandate, and a description of the MNUSS database for tracking needs nationwide. View the new content at [http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/MN\\_main.htm](http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/MN_main.htm). Look for this information on the FHM site at [http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/MN\\_main.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/MN_main.htm) by April 25, 2000.
- **Updated Fees Page:** The Federal Register notice changing the Back-up Data fee for initiating a back-up data request from \$140 to \$120 has also been posted to the FHM mirror site. A summary has been added to the What's New section ([http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/WN\\_main.htm](http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/WN_main.htm)) and the listing of all flood map related fees has been updated to reflect the change. View the revised content on the FHM mirror site at [http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/FRM\\_fees.htm](http://www.floodmaps.net/mit/tsd/FRM_fees.htm). This information should be available from the FHM site at [http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/FRM\\_fees.htm](http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/FRM_fees.htm) by April 25, 2000.
- **Assisting FIA with Posting of CBRS LOMRs on NFIP site:** Four existing CBRS LOMRs are currently being converted to Adobe Acrobat PDF format for inclusion in the CBRS section of the NFIP web site. The existing content on this site, including access to the National CBRS database, may be viewed at <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/cobra.htm>.

Two new pages will be linked from this section. The first will include information about the importance of CBRS LOMRs and provide links to the existing CBRS LOMRs in PDF format. The second page will provide a link to a listing of pending CBRS updates in tabular format. Hyperlinks to the CBRS LOMR PDF files will also be added to the comments field of the National CBRS database.

- **Online Multimedia Tutorial Progress Reports:** Several online multimedia tutorials are either in development or planned for development over the coming months. Many of these tutorials are based on the training modules that were originally piloted at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), in Emmitsburg, Maryland, from October 12-22, 1999. These modules were designed to provide in-depth training in different facets of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to support FEMA's public education and outreach efforts as part of the Map Modernization program. A brief description and progress report for each online tutorial project is included below:
  - *Quick-2, Version 2.0 Tutorial* - This tutorial, which is being developed in Macromedia Flash (a multimedia software package), will use sample data sets to illustrate the functionality of the Quick-2 program. *Projected completion: May 2000.*
  - *LOMA Tutorial* - This tutorial is intended to walk users through the LOMA application process. A tutorial prototype is available for preliminary content review at [http://www.floodmaps.net/Practice/OT\\_loma.pdf](http://www.floodmaps.net/Practice/OT_loma.pdf). *Projected completion: May 2000.*
  - *NFF Tutorial* – This tutorial will teach site visitors to use the NFF software to calculate peak discharge information. *Projected completion: June 2000.*
  - *How to Read a FIRM* – This tutorial will contain information to educate the user on the use and application of FIRMs. Each component of the FIRM will be investigated. *Projected completion: June 2000.*
  - *How to Read a FIS* – This tutorial will contain information to educate the user on the use and application of FISs. Each aspect of the FIS will be investigated. *Projected completion: June 2000.*
  - *LOMR Tutorial* – This tutorial will take the user through the LOMR and CLOMR application process. It will include an overview of the NFIP, information on NFIP regulations, and other pertinent topics. *Projected completion: September 2000.*
  - *GIS Tutorial* – This tutorial will use existing GIS demonstrations and training materials as a basis for the creation of an overview that explains how FEMA's Mitigation Directorate uses GIS to meet mapping and analysis requirements. *Projected completion: September 2000.*

- **Research on World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines:** The Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee (EITAAC) prepared a final report, dated May 12, 1999, that summarizes recommended standards that must be met to ensure that users with disabilities (seeing and hearing impaired) have access to electronic media, including web site content. The standards defined by the Advisory Committee suggest that the content on Federally funded web sites meet the requirements of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT>).

These guidelines define and prioritize three levels of access. Priority level 1 and 2 guidelines are less restrictive than Priority level 3 and must eventually be met on all Federal sites. Free tools currently exist to help webmasters, site administrators, and developers determine if their sites are compliant with the current accessibility standards. One such tool is BOBBY v. 3.1 (<http://www.cast.org/bobby>) which was developed by the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST). This Java application analyzes the accessibility of web sites based on specifications outlined in the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines document, and may be used to generate detailed summary reports on site compliance. Research is currently being completed to determine the timeline for site compliance and to identify other tools that may assist with the compliance process.

- **Automated Review of the Site:** Using Linkbot Pro on an NT server, we have scheduled to automatically review the site nightly. FHM team members check the report each morning and make any necessary repairs. Some pertinent information gathered from the latest report is included below.

- Broken links: 0
- Total files:\* 1695

*\*Total files include HTML pages, images, Adobe Acrobat PDF files, Microsoft Word WinZip Archives, etc.*

- **Listserv Sign-ups Continue to Grow:** As of April 13, 2000, we have 821 subscribers who are receiving e-mail updates on Flood Hazard Mapping. Of the current list, 55 are FEMA subscribers, 33 are from the MCCs, and 733 are from other domains. The latest listserv, which announced the posting of FEMA's "Multi-Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment" report in PDF format on the Flood Hazard Mapping web site, was distributed on March 8, 2000. E-mails like these are sent out sporadically when important new content is available on the web site or to advertise a training course.

## ***FHM Web Site Project Status***

The FHM project status summary outlines the progress on active tasks over the last month, by contractor. A primary point of contact for each contractor is included in this section along with a brief description of the scope of work for each task. These descriptions provide general background information concerning the specific tasks.

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Match the number of the following task descriptions to the ID in the table on page 3 to get a summary of information for a particular task.

1. Download Pages Special Project: Adjust several hyperlink targets to point to descriptive download pages that provide information about file content and format (to foster consistency in the handling of file downloads across the site).

***Project Completed:*** February 28, 2000.

2. Quick-2 Tutorial: Create a multimedia tutorial based on the previously developed software training module (used at the Emmitsburg training facility) to help teach engineers, as well as the general public, how to use the Quick-2 software to calculate BFEs in Zone A areas. This tutorial will use sample data sets to illustrate the functionality of the program. Supplementary example input information will be provided for download by users who would like additional exposure to the program.

***FEMA Lead:*** John Magnotti

***Team:*** Bill Blanton, - FEMA; Elmer Knoderer and John Antkowiak (tutorial review), Keith Steury and Mike Ott (tutorial development) - D&D; other FHM web team members.

***Projected Completion:*** May 2000.

3. NFF Tutorial: Create a multimedia tutorial based on the previously developed software training module (used at Emmitsburg) to teach site visitors to use the NFF software to calculate peak discharge information.

***FEMA Lead:*** John Magnotti

***Proposed Team:*** Bill Blanton - FEMA; USGS representative, TBD - USGS; Keith Steury, Mike Ott - D&D; other FHM web team members.

***Projected Completion:*** June 2000.

4. LOMRs/CLOMRs on the Web White Paper: Convene a task force of appropriate personnel to address the topic(s), conduct technical and regulatory research, and develop a white paper to outline a proposed phased approach and budget estimate for completion of the task.  
**FEMA Lead:** Sally Magee  
**Proposed Team:** Dave Jula, Eric Simmons, Keith Steury - D&D; other team members, TBD.  
**Projected Completion:** July 2000.
5. Preliminary/CBRS Maps on the Web White Paper: Convene a task force of appropriate personnel to address the topic(s), conduct technical and regulatory research, and develop a white paper to outline a proposed phased approach and budget estimate for completion of the task.  
**FEMA Lead:** Mark Crowell  
**Proposed Team:** Tony Hake, Sue Hoegberg, Steve Kalaf, Keith Steury - D&D; other team members, TBD.  
**Projected Completion:** September 2000.
6. LOMR Tutorial: Create a multimedia tutorial, based on the existing NFIP Revisions and Amendments training module, to take users through the process of applying for LOMRs and CLOMRs. The tutorial will include an overview of the NFIP, information on NFIP Regulations, and other pertinent topics.  
**FEMA Lead:** John Magnotti  
**Proposed Team:** Bill Blanton - FEMA; Keith Steury, Mike Ott - D&D; other FHM web team members.  
**Projected Completion:** September 2000.

ID	Task	Summary of Recent Activity	Current Status
1	Download Pages Special Project	Several hyperlinks were adjusted on the Insurers/Lenders, Engineers, Surveyors, and Floodplain Managers main pages, as well as the guidance page for Engineers to point to descriptive download pages that provide information about file content and format.	100% complete.
2	Quick-2 Tutorial	Latest tutorial iteration demonstrated at April 6, 2000, web meeting (John Magnotti and Bill Blanton in attendance). Several animations and numerous definition tool tips have been incorporated to clarify key concepts and terminology. Detailed review of the tutorial began on April 14, 2000.	80% complete. The latest iteration of the tutorial will be presented during the next FHM web site meeting (April 20, 2000).
3	NFF Tutorial	Tutorial was discussed in the February 9, 2000, FHM web site meeting. Coordination with staff at the USGS was suggested to ensure that the tutorial is comprehensive. Initial storyboard created for the tutorial.	Just started.
4	LOMRs/ CLOMRs on the Web White Paper	Making contact with proposed team members and initiating project start.	Just started.
5	Preliminary/CBRS Maps on the Web White Paper	Making contact with proposed team members. Project not started.	0% complete.
6	LOMR Tutorial	Project not started.	0% complete.

Emergency Upload Request: FEMA staff frequently request site updates and posting of new content to help publicize new initiatives and disseminate timely information. A significant level of effort is often necessary to complete these tasks. To eliminate the need to request funding for specific projects on a random basis, a monthly pool of hours has been set aside to handle such tasks. A summary of the activities completed under this task during the last two months is included below.

Task	Summary of Recent Activity	Current Status
Emergency Upload Request*	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Removed all references to Bel Marquez on Map Modernization and CTC pages. Replaced with references to Laura Algeo (per request of Mary Jean Pajak/Laura Algeo)</li><li>2. Added Technical Mapping Advisory Council 1999 Annual Report to site (per request of Sally Magee).</li></ol>	Will be covered under Task 5 budget in second half of FY 2000. This budget is not finalized as of the date of this memorandum.

\*For more details on these tasks and to view activities prior to February 2000, please visit our task tracking log at <http://www.floodmaps.net/fhmtracker/default.asp?direction=desc>

General Maintenance: The following table provides information concerning ongoing maintenance-level support for the Flood Hazard Mapping web site.

Task	Summary of Recent Activity	Current Status
General Maintenance	Please visit our task-tracking log to view details regarding the most recent maintenance tasks. *	Will be covered under Task 5 budget in second half of FY 2000. This budget is not finalized as of the date of this memorandum.

\*<http://www.floodmaps.net/fhmtracker/default.asp?direction=desc>



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Match the number of the following task descriptions to the ID in the table on page 7 to get a summary of information for a particular task.

1. **BFE Notices on the Web White Paper:** Prepare a memo from Mike Armstrong to FEMA Counsel with Mitigation's proposed approach to this effort – asking for their legal opinion. Convene a joint contractor task force to develop a white paper to include proposed phased approach, on-going updates, and associated budget estimates. Prepare pilot web page(s) for review and comment.  
***FEMA Lead:*** Matt Miller  
***Proposed FEMA Team:*** Mike Grimm, Doug Bellomo, Bill Blanton  
***Draft Memo Completed:*** March 2000 (delivered to Matt Miller).  
***Projected White Paper Completion:*** May 2000 (subject to Counsel's legal determination).
2. **LOMA Tutorial:** Create a tutorial that explains the LOMA application process, including necessary forms and information.  
***FEMA Lead:*** John Magnotti  
***Proposed FEMA Team:*** Bill Blanton, Katie Hayden, Mark Crowell.  
***Projected Completion:*** LOMA Tutorial: May 2000. LOMA submittals on the web: coordinated with LOMA 2000.
3. **LOMA 2000 Database tie-in:** A second phase will enable the completion and submittal of LOMA's via the web into an interim database compatible with LOMA 2000. Prepare a white paper focusing on the process and verification issues for a fully on-line LOMA submittal. Coordinate with the LOMA 2000 work group to format data from the tutorial for direct import into the LOMA 2000 database. Include an interim process for notification of submittal and the data validation prior to import to LOMA 2000.  
***FEMA Lead:*** Mark Crowell (with MCC's review)  
***Projected Completion:*** Tied to the joint contractor MIS schedule.
4. **GIS Demo and Tutorial:** Use existing GIS demos and training as a basis for the creation of an overview that explains how FEMA's Mitigation Directorate uses GIS to meet mapping and analysis requirements. Show screen shot examples of GIS projects underway such as the new DFIRMs, Hazard Exposure Study, etc. Create appropriate links to other related hazard GIS sites. As appropriate, a GIS quiz may be prepared as well.  
***FEMA Lead:*** John Magnotti  
***Proposed FEMA Team:*** Stu Nishenko and Ed Corvi.  
***Projected Completion:*** September 2000.

5. Create Database for Study Status Web Pages: Create a web database to automatically generate study status pages, including information on up-coming meetings and milestones, a map of the study location, and e-mail contact information for FEMA regional representatives.  
**FEMA Lead:** John Magnotti  
**Proposed FEMA Team:** Stu Nishenko and Ed Corvi.  
**Projected Completion:** Depends on availability of GIS infrastructure on MSC server. This activity is currently unfunded.
6. Animations for the LOMA Tutorial: Includes the creation of an image map and animations demonstrating riverine erosion, neighborhood and aerial views of flood profiles, and lowest adjacent grade. Include five animations with natural sound.  
**FEMA Lead:** John Magnotti  
**Proposed FEMA Team:** Bill Blanton.  
**Projected Completion:** September 2000.
7. LOMAs on the Web White Paper: Coordinate with LOMA 2000 group and the Map Service Center. Conduct research and programming to the demonstration level. Prepare a white paper to include proposed phased approach and budget estimate.  
**FEMA Lead:** Mark Crowell  
**Proposed FEMA Team:** John Magnotti.  
**Projected Completion:** Tied to the joint contractor MIS.

ID	Task	Summary of Recent Activity	Current Status
1	BFE Notices on the Web White Paper	Individual discussions held, meeting pending, regulations and background information research underway. Prototype underway.	20% complete.
2	LOMA Tutorial	Content drafted, programming underway.	20% complete.
3	LOMA 2000 Database tie-in	Meetings held, database tie-in structure under development.	15% complete.
4	GIS Demo and Tutorial	Discussions underway. Meeting planned for mid-March. On schedule.	5% complete.
5	Create database for Study Status web pages	Discussions underway. Meeting planned for mid-March. On-schedule.	5% complete.
6	Animations for the LOMA tutorial	Discussions underway. Base map research underway. On-schedule.	2% complete.
7	LOMAs on the Web White Paper	On-hold pending the LOMA 2000 rollout.	0% complete.

General Maintenance: Please visit our task tracking log at <http://www.floodmaps.net/fhmtracker/default.asp?direction=desc> to view details regarding the most recent maintenance tasks addressed under this ongoing activity.

**Post, Buckley, Schuh, and Jernigan**

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Match the number of the following task descriptions to the ID in the table on the next page to get a summary of information for a particular task.

1. How to Read a FIRM: Develop a web-based tutorial on how to read a FIRM. The tutorial will contain information to educate the users on its use and application. It will take the user through each aspect of a FIRM, such as the legend and notes.  
***FEMA Lead:** John Magnotti*  
***Proposed Team:** Bill Blanton, Anne Flowers – FEMA, Scott Freda*  
***Projected Completion:** June 2000.*
2. How to Read a FIS: Develop a web-based tutorial on how to read a FIS report. The tutorial will contain information to educate the users on its use and application. It will take the user through each aspect of a FIS, such as profiles, cross-sections, and notes.  
***FEMA Lead:** John Magnotti*  
***Proposed Team:** Bill Blanton– FEMA*  
***Projected Completion:** June 2000.*
3. Backup Data on the Web: Assemble a task force and conduct technical research on supplying back-up data through the web. Develop a white paper including a phased approach to deploying the data, along with a budget estimate and schedule.  
***FEMA Leads:** Bill Blanton and Mike Grimm*  
***Proposed Team:** Mike Gilliam – PBS&J*  
***Projected Completion:** August 2000.*
4. MNAP Information Post: Develop a white paper for a web-based response area to allow feedback and information to be posted for MNAP. Coordinate with the MNAP group on critical issues and needs. A proposed phased schedule and budget will be prepared.  
***FEMA Lead:** Cindy Croxdale*  
***Proposed Team:** TBD*

<b>ID</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Summary of Recent Activity</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
1	How to Read a FIRM Tutorial	Gathered documentation on existing guidelines for reading FIRMs. Writing tutorial content. Began scanning images of FIRMs. Developing a storyboard, web layout, and working with FIRM images.	5-10% complete.
2	How to Read a FIS Tutorial	Gathered documentation on existing guidelines for reading FISs. Planning tutorial content. Will begin scanning images of FISs.	Just started.
3	Backup Data on the Web	Examining the existing system for requesting and delivering backup data.	1% complete.
4	MNAP Information Post	Project not started.	0% complete.

Distribution with Attachment

Doug Bellomo  
Bill Blanton  
Edward Corvi  
Mark Crowell  
Cindy Croxdale  
Anne Flowers  
Mike Grimm  
Katie Hayden  
Sally Magee  
John Magnotti  
Matt Miller  
Stu Nishenko

Distribution without Attachment

Mike Buckley  
Chris Doyle  
Nancy Thrall